



Should I shelter-in-place or go to a hurricane evacuation shelter?

FACT SHEET: Stay calm. Stay informed.

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STATE CIVIL DEFENSE / HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Listen to Local Officials

Local authorities will issue evacuation orders and release shelter locations if needed.

Evacuation Orders

Evacuation orders are issued by local authorities to remove the public from potentially dangerous areas. Never ignore an evacuation order. Listen to instructions and remember your emergency kit and your pets when you leave.

Shelter Locations

Shelter locations will be provided by your county civil defense/emergency management agency. State Civil Defense / Hawaii Emergency Management Agency distributes a list of pre-designated facilities; however, not all of the shelters on the list will be opened for every event.

What is a hurricane evacuation shelter?

A hurricane evacuation shelter is a facility that provides increased protection from high winds to the public. They are designated by your local county civil defense / emergency management agency and operated by the American Red Cross. Basically, it's just a place to ride out the storm that may not have any comfort items like food and water.

How do I know if I need to go to a shelter?

Local authorities will give evacuation orders for areas with significant risk of damage resulting from a high wind event. If you are not in the identified areas, stay put. Unnecessary evacuation can cause overcrowded shelters and traffic jams.

Can I shelter-in-place?

You may be able to shelter-in-place if you live outside of a flood hazard area in a sturdy home with double wall construction. These homes were generally built after 1995. If your home or building is sturdy enough, additional measures like boarding windows and having doors that can withstand wind pressure and debris impact can make your home a safer place to ride out a storm.

What about my pets?

Pet Friendly shelter will be announced by local authorities. Prepare to bring your pets to a pet friendly shelter by having a kennel or cage and getting your pet used to it. Owners are responsible for the pets they bring to shelters and must have food and water for them.

What else do I need to know about shelters?

An evacuation shelter should be a safe place for everyone. Do bring your emergency supplies of food and water; do not bring firearms, knives, or other dangerous items.